

MAR 13 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Independent claims 1, 15 and 51 have been amended to recite that scores for a traversed path are modified to allow for flexible endpoints for phonemes such that at least one of a first arc that ends at a first frame and a second arc that starts at a third frame is extended so that the first and third arcs are directly connected at a second frame. The cited art fails to teach or suggest such subject matter. In this regard, the primary reference Wolf nowhere teaches or suggests the recited modifying. In this regard, the Office Action refers to column 3, paragraphs 33-40 of Wolf. However, all that this portion of Wolf teaches is that low dimension certainty vectors are determined, by dividing scores of paths that pass through a node and running external classifiers. However, Wolf nowhere teaches or suggests this recited allowing of flexible end points as set forth in claim 1. Nor do the other cited references. This is particularly so, as Wolf and the secondary references fail to teach this extension of arcs. For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 15 and 51 are patentable over the cited art.

Independent claim 24 is patentable for at least the same reasons discussed regarding claim 1, as the cited art fails to teach the extension of at least one of first and second arcs such that the two arcs are directly connected at a different frame.

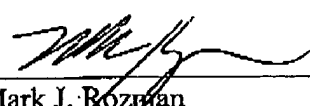
Regarding independent claim 37, the cited art fails to teach or suggest that a global score is based on a first score and a third score, where the third score itself is combined with a technique to incorporate word level language probabilities at an end of a first phoneme of a word. Thus claim 37 and its dependent claims are patentable over the cited art.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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